

# Cooperatively Speaking

Spring 2012

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## PCPI Annual Meetings Report

### Washington, DC April 2012



“By building community, we are talking about people forming relationships”. These words are a powerful reminder of what the greater good of being part of a Cooperative means. At PCPI’s annual meeting in April we had a wonderful and diverse group of PCPI members from across North America gather and learn from each other. Activities abounded over the three days - we had the privilege of visiting the Smithsonian Museum on a museum training session hosted by Lynann Derrick. We had meetings at the National Cooperative Business Association offices, which houses some of PCPI’s administration activities. Their staff did a presentation on the International Year of the Cooperative in 2012, which is an exciting time for all Cooperative Preschools and Councils.

Attendees at the meetings were fortunate to visit three wonderful preschools who hosted and even fed us! The Takoma Park Cooperative was first – we enjoyed visiting their garden full of treasures like the Bug Hotel and the flower laden stage, the rock garden and the ‘au naturel’ sand box not to mention the different climbing structures, which were truly exceptional. The second visit was Silver Spring Nursery School where we toured their fantastic and expansive preschool space. We loved the idea of having pictures of the duty parents alongside the children in the classroom each day as well as the sweet and touching “good-bye window” for those kids missing Mum or Dad. Lastly we travelled to Greenbelt Nursery school where we loved to see all the Learning through Play signs in every area of the preschool. It really drove home the value of what our kids are doing everyday while enjoying their play at school. Thank-you so much for capturing the essence of what is important!

A special thanks to our incredible host and meeting planner extraordinaire Leta Mach, Past Chair of PCPI, for making this year’s meetings such a great success. She was instrumental for the logistics, learning opportunities, and community development—with the tremendous support of Lynann Derrick, Director of Colonial Nursery School . We accomplished so many great things this year and look forward to the continued success of PCPI.

Mariah Battiston  
Council of Parent Participation Preschools in BC

*Join us in Portland, Oregon  
for PCPI’s  
next annual meetings  
April 26 & 27, 2013*



**KATHARINE WHITESIDE  
TAYLOR BURSARY  
SUPPORTS CANADIAN  
COOPERATIVES  
Application Deadline:  
November 15, 2012**

This scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Katharine Whiteside Taylor, a founding member of Parent Cooperative Preschools International (PCPI). It provides financial support to assist in the continuing education of parents and teachers currently participating in a Canadian cooperative or parent participation preschool.

Dr. Taylor devoted much of her life to the Parent Cooperative movement in North America and overseas - writing, lecturing, and giving personal guidance to parents, teachers and children learning together in a cooperative/parent participation preschool setting.

On April 17, 1996, Katharine Whiteside Taylor was inducted into the U.S. Cooperative Hall of Fame. This prestigious award recognizes those whose contribution to the cooperative movement has been truly heroic. Katharine started the first parent cooperative preschool in 1918 at the University of Chicago. Later, in 1927, she founded the Children's Community in Berkeley, California, the oldest continually operating cooperative preschool in the U.S. Her work throughout the United States, Canada and New Zealand added to the growing number of preschools around the world and played an integral role in the establishment of PCPI.

### **Bursary Eligibility**

Teaching staff currently employed in a Canadian parent cooperative or parents participating at those schools who are pursuing professional development in the field of early childhood education or related leadership training may apply by completing an application by November 15, 2012.

Successful candidates may be eligible for an award of up to \$400.

### **KWT Bursary Applications**

For application forms or further information, check your local or regional parent cooperative council or the PCPI website at

[www.preschools.coop](http://www.preschools.coop) or contact

Catherine Shaver by phone 519-621-1719 or email: [shaver1337@gmail.com](mailto:shaver1337@gmail.com)



### **PCPI ELECTED OFFICERS 2012/2013**

President: Lesley Romanoff Takoma Park, MD

V.P. Admin: Robin Bunster Lake Oswego, OR

V.P. Finance: Linda Henegar Tigard, OR

V.P. Membership: Mariah Battiston and Roberta Stuart Burnaby, BC

V.P. Resources: Leta Mach Greenbelt, MD

Recording Secretary: Carol Brown Lindsay, ON

Past President: Kathy Ems, Portland, OR

Committee Chairs: Meg Kennedy Shaw, Advisors; Lynann Derrick, Awards; Jean Beale, CS Newsletter; Catherine Shaver, KWT Bursary; Lisa Meyer, Becky Allen Grant; and Jennifer DeBernardis, MT Travel Grant.

2013 Meeting Liaisons: Robin Bunster and Kathy Ems

## Making Music in Early Childhood Supports All Learning

By Lili M. Levinowitz, Professor of Music Education at Rowan University and co-author of the music program "Music Together." [www.musictogether.com](http://www.musictogether.com) excerpted from "Voice of the Researcher," Journal of the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers. 2011

Early childhood professionals have a longstanding positive relationship with the use of music in their classrooms. Music learning supports all learning! Music can certainly expand and enhance the early childhood curriculum and develop language and literacy skills in young children that are important to later school readiness. Moreover, the recent neuroscientific information that supports the use of music for spatial temporal intelligence [the ability to see patterns in space and time, or to form mental images from physical objects and to manipulate (i.e., rotate, or turn) such images in one's mind], language memory and learning has also heightened the importance of the use of music in the core curriculum of the early childhood classroom (Rauscher, et.al, 1993, 1997).

Today many people equate music-making with talent and have perpetuated the "old wives tale" that there are only a chosen few who deserve or dare to make music. Unfortunately, this manner of thinking has yielded an orientation for performance rather than for participation. Our current culture is a passive, consumptive one rather than an active participatory culture where music and movement is concerned. Following are some suggestions that will help an early childhood educator take an active role as a music model.



The classroom environment, as well as the teacher's guidance in it, is crucial for the music making that is necessary to foster music abilities and contribute significantly to the overall growth and development of the child. Don't limit music making to circle time or just the music-making area. Make your whole classroom a music-making area.

Because your guidance is so important, as you visit to observe your students in each center, sing spontaneously yourself. Choose songs that reflect the theme in your center and interject them as you observe their play. Instead of putting CDs on as background music, educators should model listening to a CD with obvious enjoyment themselves. Moreover, share your favorite CDs for dancing and dance with the children. Throughout your day, model the exploration of instruments such as drums, tambourine, triangles, finger cymbals, xylophones, and world instruments.

Don't just sing songs with lyrics - sing songs without words, too. Insert phonemes that you are learning or just sing la-la. This helps children be more creative musically during solitary play. Find picture books where the story is the song, and sing it instead of reading it. Have children create their own singing storybooks or make this a class activity where everyone contributes a picture page to the lyrics of a favorite song. Compose your own "silly opera" to a favorite storybook. Sing "What do you see in my picture?" Then transition to another child by singing, "What happens next?" This activity supports the sequencing skill that is so important to pre-reading.

Music Together is one curriculum model that has successfully been integrated into many pre-schools in the United States and abroad. Music Together recently participated in a research study comparing student learning in classrooms with and without the program. Students participating in Music Together had improved cognitive, language, and physical development to a statistically significant standard in this Bridgeport, Connecticut study [Cohen & Frank 2009]. Music learning does support all learning.

### References

Cohen, M. and Frank, M. (2009) *Total learning initiative research summary*. New York: Michael Cohen Group LLC.  
Rauscher, F.H., Shaw, G.L. and Ky, K.N. (1993) Music and spatial task performance. *Nature*. 365: 611.

**PCPI Supports & Encourages  
PARENT Involvement  
PARENT Participation and  
PARENT Education in  
Early Childhood Education  
Programs**

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**Submissions are welcome**

Please send to:

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**Join PCPI to Learn Together**

Membership Year: January to December

Dues for 2012 are

Individual \$40

Council \$200

School/Group \$50

Library \$ 40

Mail Membership to US or Canadian Office

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

A LINK TO YOUR WEBSITE, NETWORK WITH OTHER CO-OP

TEACHERS AND PARENTS ON OUR YAHOO CHAT GROUP,

RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS AND DIRECTORY, APPLY FOR

OUR ANNUAL GRANTS, NOMINATE YOUR MEMBERS FOR

AWARDS, JOIN OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.

All the sounds on earth are like music

~Oscar Hammerstein~



It's that time of year – when the leadership  
in your co-op preschool may change. As you turn  
over your office to the new leaders of your school,  
please be sure to tell them about PCPI's website  
and the login information and password for the  
member's only section. The login is your e-mail  
address when the site was launched. If you need to  
confirm or change the login, please send a message  
to [enquiries@preschools.coop](mailto:enquiries@preschools.coop).

**Congratulations to PCPI's  
2012 Award Recipients**

**District Awards**

**Janise Allyn-Smith** Silver Spring Nursery School,  
Silver Spring, MD , **Robin Bunster** Oswego Play-

school, Portland, Oregon , **Lisa Meyer** Greenbelt  
Nursery School, Greenbelt, MD , and

**Bernie Occhiuzzo** Cedar Lane Nursery School,  
Bethesda, MD

**Outstanding Achievement Award**

**Chris Borud Porter** Families Together Cooperative  
Nursery School, Chicago IL

## *Welcome to our new President* by Kathy Ems, PCPI Past President

*Dynamic and creative are the first words that come to my mind when describing PCPI's new president, Lesley Romanoff. She is the Director and a teacher at Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School in Maryland. She arrived there in 1994 as a co-oping parent and served on its Board of Directors. In 1997 Lesley began teaching at Takoma Park and became School Director in 2006, while continuing to work in the classroom and also designing the adult and child curriculum, as well as the after-hours and Summer Enrichment options for the school.*

*Lesley joined the PCPI Board last year as VP Resources, and is responsible for our Facebook presence and our new brochures. She is committed to PCPI because it was founded and is sustained by parents AND teachers. "This is important to me since I found my way to the participatory model by being a parent first. I found comfort and support during a critical stage of my family's and my developmental arc. I then found a passion for teaching and learning alongside children and their parents and guardians." Lesley is a second career teacher. Her first career was in video production and scriptwriting. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio, Television, and Film from the University of Maryland and a Master of Art in Teaching, Early Childhood Education. Lesley has a special interest in expression through visual art, studying the evolution of creative thinking, and the development of social language. She says "I enjoy networking with people and learning more about education, administration, and marketing, although, truly, if we want to learn about teaching, we only need to look back into each of our schools' and PCPI's rich files. Cooperative teachers have led the way in shaping best practices and building a strong community of learners. It is my hope to return a drop of wisdom and joy back into this wonderful reserve."*

*As out-going President, I welcome Lesley to PCPI's leadership. Our meetings in Washington, D.C. focused on how we can best serve our membership and how co-ops can find and use PCPI. It has been a great four years - with our new website, Facebook and accident insurance plan - as well as continuing with school contacts through yahoo and email, Becky Allen Parent Ed grants, Katharine Whiteside Taylor scholarships, and other on-going programs. Please continue to use our services - the Yahoo group is perfect for getting ideas from other schools. If you have a more private question, email us at [enquiries@preschools.coop](mailto:enquiries@preschools.coop) and one of our board members will respond.*

*Cooperatively Yours, Kathy*